

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00746 301300Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
EPG-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W
-----007788 301305Z /43

R 301216Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7483
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0746

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, IT, MT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN/FRENCH DIALOGUE WITH MALTA

REF: A. VALLETTA 0521, B. VALLETTA 0707,

1. AS DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, MINTOFF
RECENTLY IMPOSED ANOTHER ULTIMATUM ON THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH;
THIS ONE TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING WITH MALTA ON A NEUTRALITY
GUARANTEE AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT FOR THE POST-1979
PERIOD BY THE END OF JUNE OR THEY WOULD LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MALTA AND MALTA WOULD TURN
TO LIBYA AND THE SOUTH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00746 301300Z

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HERE
THAT ROME AND PARIS HAVE DEALT WITH THIS ULTIMATUM BY
CONVEYING ON JUNE 28 AN AGREED PIECE OF PAPER THAT
LARGELY REITERATES THEIR PREVIOUS POSITION BUT GOES A
STEP FURTHER WITH RESPECT TO THE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE.
AMBASSADOR DA-RIN TELLS US THAT BOTH PARIS AND ROME WERE
EXCEEDINGLY RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE IN THIS CASE THE THREAT

BEHIND MINTOFF'S ULTIMATUM BUT DECIDED THIS "LIMITED STEP" WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY UNDERSTOOD TO BE A SERIOUS MINTOFF INTENTION TO GO PUBLIC BY THE END OF JUNE WITH ACCUSATIONS OF NONPERFORMANCE AGAINST FRANCE AND ITALY IN A WAY THAT WOULD UNDULY JEOPARDIZE THEIR DIALOGUE WITH MALTA.

3. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE TEXT OF THE PIECE OF PAPER INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

(A) ITALY AND FRANCE REAFFIRM THEIR PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE FORMAL NOTE OF AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION BY MALTA OF ITS INTENTION TO ADHERE TO NEUTRALITY AFTER APRIL 1, 1979.

(B) THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER, SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES AND DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, PLACING THEIR RECOGNITION OF MALTA'S NEUTRALITY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE.

(C) ITALY AND FRANCE REAFFIRM THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THROUGH BILATERAL MEASURES IN ENSURING MALTA'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY AFTER 1979. (NO SPECIFICS INDICATED.)

(D) THESE COMMITMENTS ON THE PART OF ITALY AND FRANCE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO COMPLETION BY MALTA OF SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 00746 301300Z

WITH THE ARAB SIDE AND PROVISION FOR SOME KIND OF CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. (DA-RIN TELLS US THAT THIS POINT IS ESSENTIALLY LIFTED FROM THE LIBYAN LETTER TO MINTOFF OF JUNE 9, REFERRED TO IN VALLETTA 0707.)

4. ACCORDING TO DA-RIN, MINTOFF HAD DEMANDED SOME RESPONSE FROM THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS BY JUNE 28 BECAUSE OF HIS INTENTION TO INFORM PARLIAMENT THE STATUS OF HIS DIALOGUE BEFORE PARLIAMENT ROSE THIS WEEK. HE HAS NOT DONE SO AS YET, INDICATING EITHER THAT HE DOES NOT FEEL PRESSED TO GO PUBLIC ON THE RESULTS OF HIS ULTIMATUM OR THAT HE REGARDS THE ITALIAN/FRENCH RESPONSE AS INADEQUATE, OR POSSIBLY BOTH.

5. DA-RIN TELLS US THAT ITALIANS WERE AND APPARENTLY REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT PARA 3(B), DEPARTING AS IT DOES FROM PREVIOUS STRICTLY BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS ON NEUTRALITY PROPOSAL. HOWEVER FRENCH ARGUED IN FAVOR OF INCLUDING THIS, REFLECTING A VIEW THAT GETTING LIBYA ENGAGED MULTILATERALLY WITH EUROPE IN SOME FASHION ON THIS POINT COULD HELP KEEP LIBYAN MEDITERRANEAN POLICIES IN CHECK. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, NEUTRALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VALLET00746
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770233-1053
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977061/aaaaaajy.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1f37f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 VALLETTA 521, 77 VALLETTA 707
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1989382
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN/FRENCH DIALOGUE WITH MALTA
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, ECON, FR, IT, MT
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1f37f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009